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ABSTRACT

This report provides data on the status of the 1985 promotion policy established in the School District of Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), and highlights the policy's impact on students as of June 1991. The total citywide enrollments were 105,542 in 1988 and 114,092 in 1991. At the end of the 1987-88 school year, the promotions standards of the policy were fully implemented after a three-year phase-in process. At that time, 76.9 percent of the students met the promotion requirements. In succeeding three years (June 1988 through June 1991), the promotion rate increased in a steady, incremental pattern of performance. In June 1991, the promotion rate was 84.9 percent. The effect of one major intervention, summer school remedial instruction, was to permit a segment of students to meet promotion requirements and to increase the overall promotion rate from 80 percent in 1988 to 87 percent in 1991. Students who do not meet the promotion requirements two years in a row are not retained again. Instead, they are identified in the category "Did Not Meet Criteria", are placed in the next age appropriate grade, and are not calculated in either the promoted or retained category for statistical reporting purposes. The percentage of those students decreased from 4.3 percent to 2.3 percent between June 1988 and June 1991. The bulk of the document consists of two tables and nine bar graphs. (JB)

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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SYSTEMWIDE STUDENT PROMOTION PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 25, 1991

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UD 028 520

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presentation to the Philadelphia Board of Education

Topic: Promotion Policy Annual Report	Date of Presentation: November 25,1991 Presenter(s): Dr. Rita C. Altman Mr. Spencer Davis

In March, 1985, the Board of Education adopted a promotion policy for the School District of Philadelphia. Today, we are presenting to the Board the annual report on the status of the 1985 promotion policy and its impact on students as of June, 1991. (Tables 1 and 2 and Charts 4 through 4E)

With the end of the 1987-88 school year (June, 1988), the promotion standards of the 1985 policy were fully implemented after a three year phase-in process. At that time, seventy-seven percent (76.9%) of the students had met the promotion requirements. In the succeeding three years (June, 1988 through June, 1991), the promotion rate increased in a steady, incremental pattern of performance. In June, 1991, the promotion rate was eighty-five (84.9%) percent. (Charts 1 and 3)

One of the major support interventions for students who were identified for retention in grade was the establishment of an intensive summer school program of remedial instruction in 1986. The effect of the summer school instruction was to permit a segment of students to meet promotion requirements and to increase the overall promotion rate from 80% in 1988 to 87% in 1991. (Charts 2 and 3)

The 1985 promotion policy provides for the recognition of the effect that retention has on age appropriate placement of students in grade. Students may not be retained twice in the same grade and students who do not meet promotion requirements a second time in the same grade are identified in the category "Did Not Meet Criteria" (DNMC). These students are placed in the next age appropriate grade and for statistical reporting are not calculated in either the promoted or retained category. The percentage of students in the DNMC category has decreased from 4.3% in June, 1988 to 2.3% in June, 1991. (Chart 2)

On September 16,1991, the Board received a briefing on the Report of the Task Force on the Promotion Policy following its dissemination by the Superintendent to over 2,000 people including parents, teachers, principals and community persons. We are now in the process of planning a series of community seminars to offer additional opportunities for parents and community members to participate in discussions of the Task Force recommendations.

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TABLE 1: PROMOTION/RETENTION REPORT BY GRADE,
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PROMOTED, RETAINED
AND "DID NOT MEET CRITERIA,"* JUNE 1991

GRADE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	PROMOTION		RETENTION		D. N. M. C.	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
01	17,790	13,775	77.4	3,501	19.6	514	2.8
02	15,748	13,602	86.3	1,878	11.9	268	1.7
03	15,403	13,556	88.0	1,595	10.3	252	1.6
04	14,499	12,951	89.3	1,342	9.2	206	1.4
05	13,139	12,030	91.5	922	7.0	187	1.4
06	13,181	11,146	84.5	1,694	12.8	341	2.5
07	12,038	9,789	81.3	1,787	14.8	462	3.8
08	11,659	9,628	82.5	1,598	13.7	433	3.7
UG	635	445	70.0	153	24.0	37	5.8
CITYWIDE TOTALS	114,092	96,922	84.9	14,470	12.6	2,700	2.3

* "Did Not Meet Criteria" - Students may not be retained twice in the same grade. Students who do not meet promotion requirements a second time in the same grade are identified in the category "Did Not Meet Criteria" (DNMC). These students are placed in the next age appropriate grade and for statistical reporting are not calculated in either the promoted or retained category.

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TABLE 2: COMPARISON OF JUNE 1988 WITH JUNE 1991 PROMOTION/RETENTION RATES BY GRADE, PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PROMOTED, RETAINED AND "DID NOT MEET CRITERIA"*

GRADE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT		PROMOTION		RETENTION		D. N. M. C.	
	1988	1991	% 1988	% 1991	% 1988	% 1991	% 1988	% 1991
01	16,954	17,790	73.3	77.4	22.5	19.6	4.2	2.8
02	14,615	15,748	77.6	86.3	18.9	11.9	3.4	1.7
03	14,133	15,403	77.2	88.0	18.9	10.3	3.9	1.6
04	12,931	14,499	80.2	89.3	16.5	9.2	3.3	1.4
05	11,958	13,139	86.2	91.5	11.2	7.0	2.5	1.4
06	11,226	13,181	85.3	84.5	11.9	12.8	2.7	2.5
07	12,025	12,038	66.3	81.3	25.8	14.8	7.9	3.8
08	11,463	11,659	70.0	82.5	23.3	13.7	6.7	3.7
UG	237	635	62.0	70.0	28.6	24.0	9.2	5.8
CITYWIDE TOTALS	105,542	114,092	76.8	84.9	18.8	12.6	4.3	2.3

This table is a comparison of promotion, retention and "Did Not Meet Criteria" rates for June 1988, the first year of full implementation of promotion standards, and June 1991.

* "Did Not Meet Criteria" - Students may not be retained twice in the same grade. Students who do not meet promotion requirements a second time in the same grade are identified in the category "Did Not Meet Criteria" (DNMC). These students are placed in the next age appropriate grade and for statistical reporting are not calculated in either the promoted or retained category.

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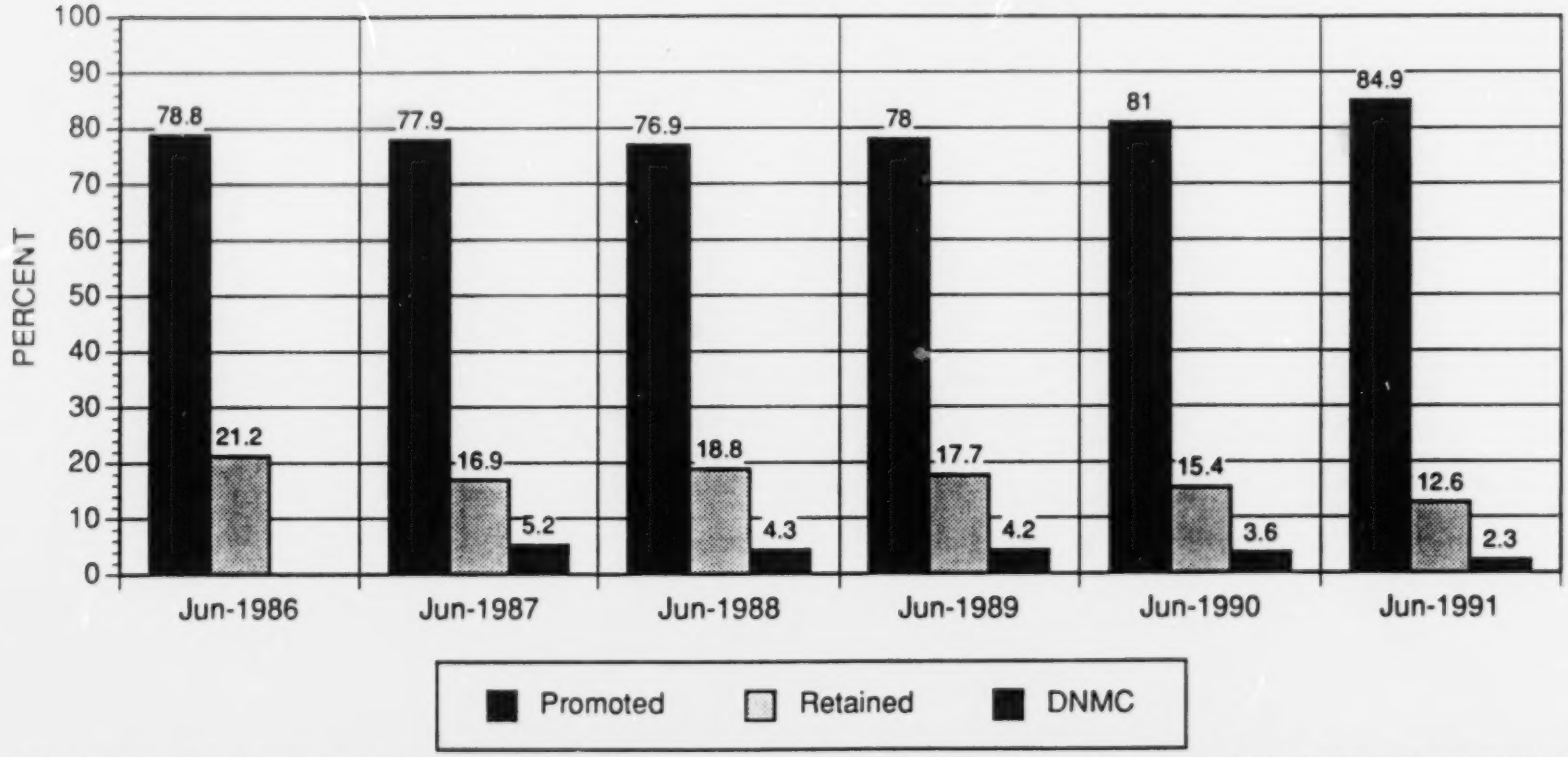
CHART 1: LONGITUDINAL SUMMARY JUNE 1986 THROUGH JUNE 1991
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-8
PROMOTED, RETAINED AND "DID NOT MEET CRITERIA"*



* "Did Not Meet Criteria" - Students may not be retained twice in the same grade. Students who do not meet promotion requirements a second time in the same grade are identified in the category "Did Not Meet Criteria" (DNMC). These students are placed in the next age appropriate grade and for statistical reporting are not calculated in either the promoted or retained category.

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CHART 2: LONGITUDINAL SUMMARY AUGUST 1986 THROUGH AUGUST 1991
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-8
PROMOTED AFTER SUMMER SCHOOL

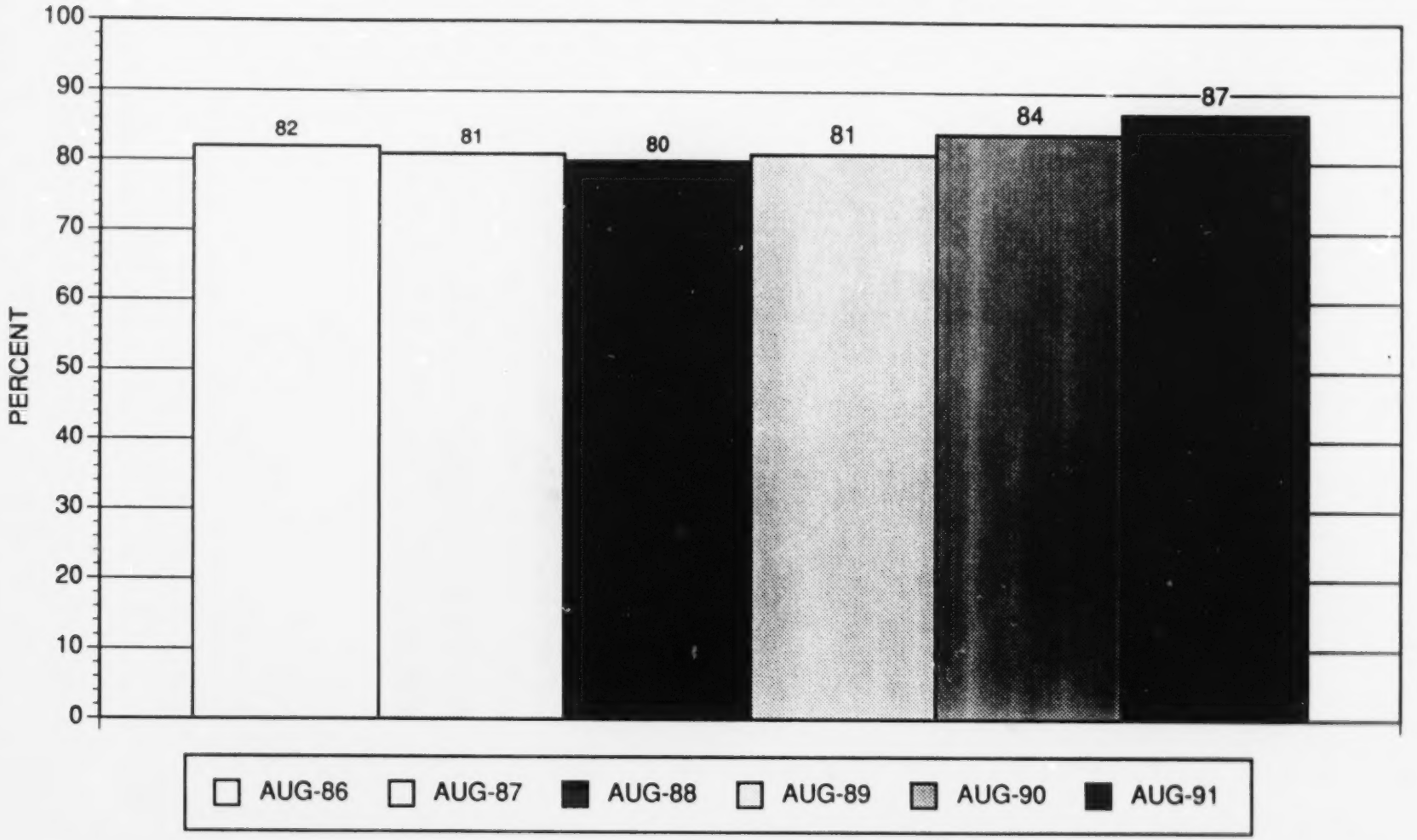

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CHART 3: LONGITUDINAL COMPARISONS OF PROMOTION RATES
JUNE AND AUGUST, 1986 THROUGH 1991

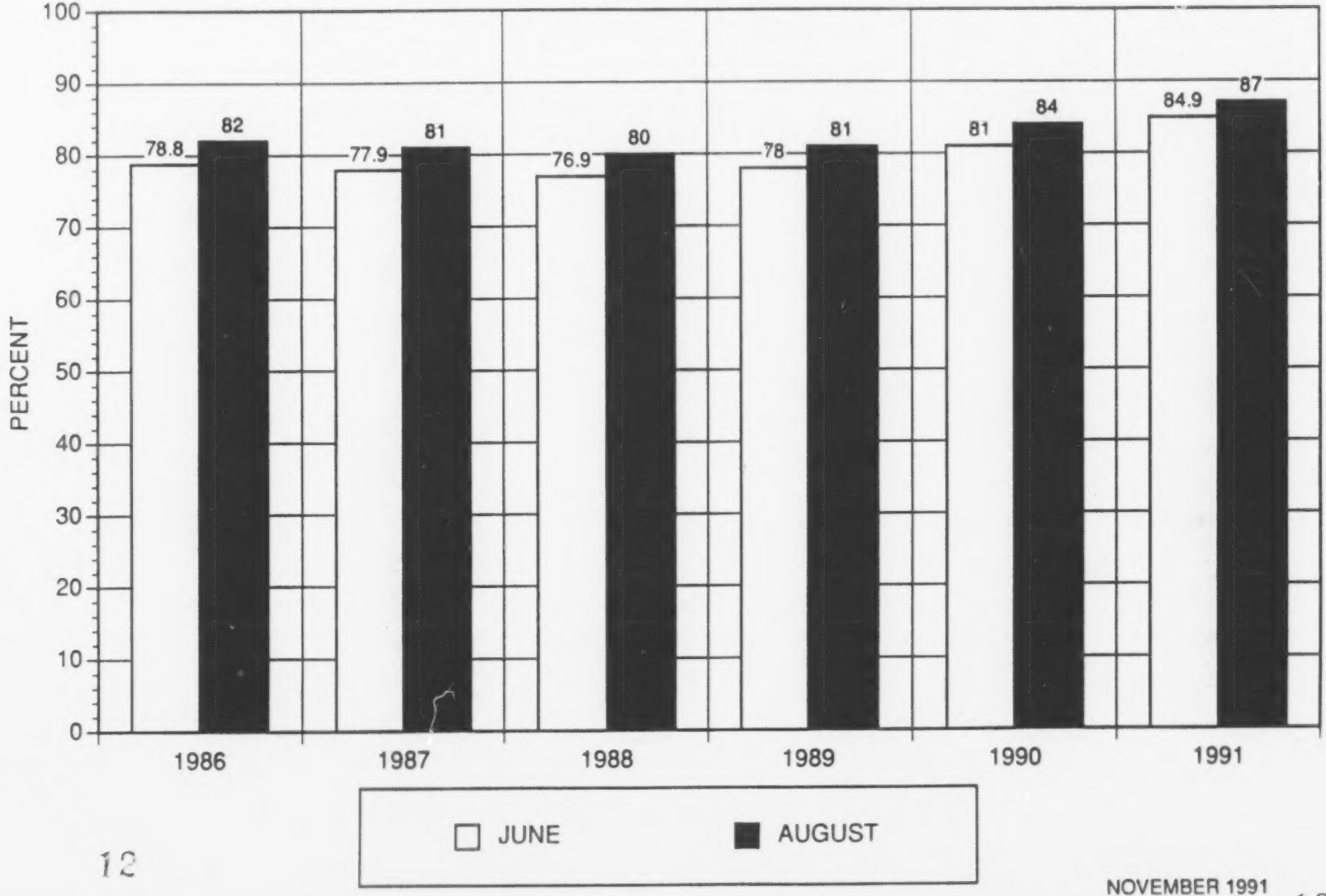

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CHART 4: CROSS-SECTIONAL SUMMARY - JUNE 1991
PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS PROMOTED
GRADES 1-8 BY GENDER AND ETHNIC GROUP

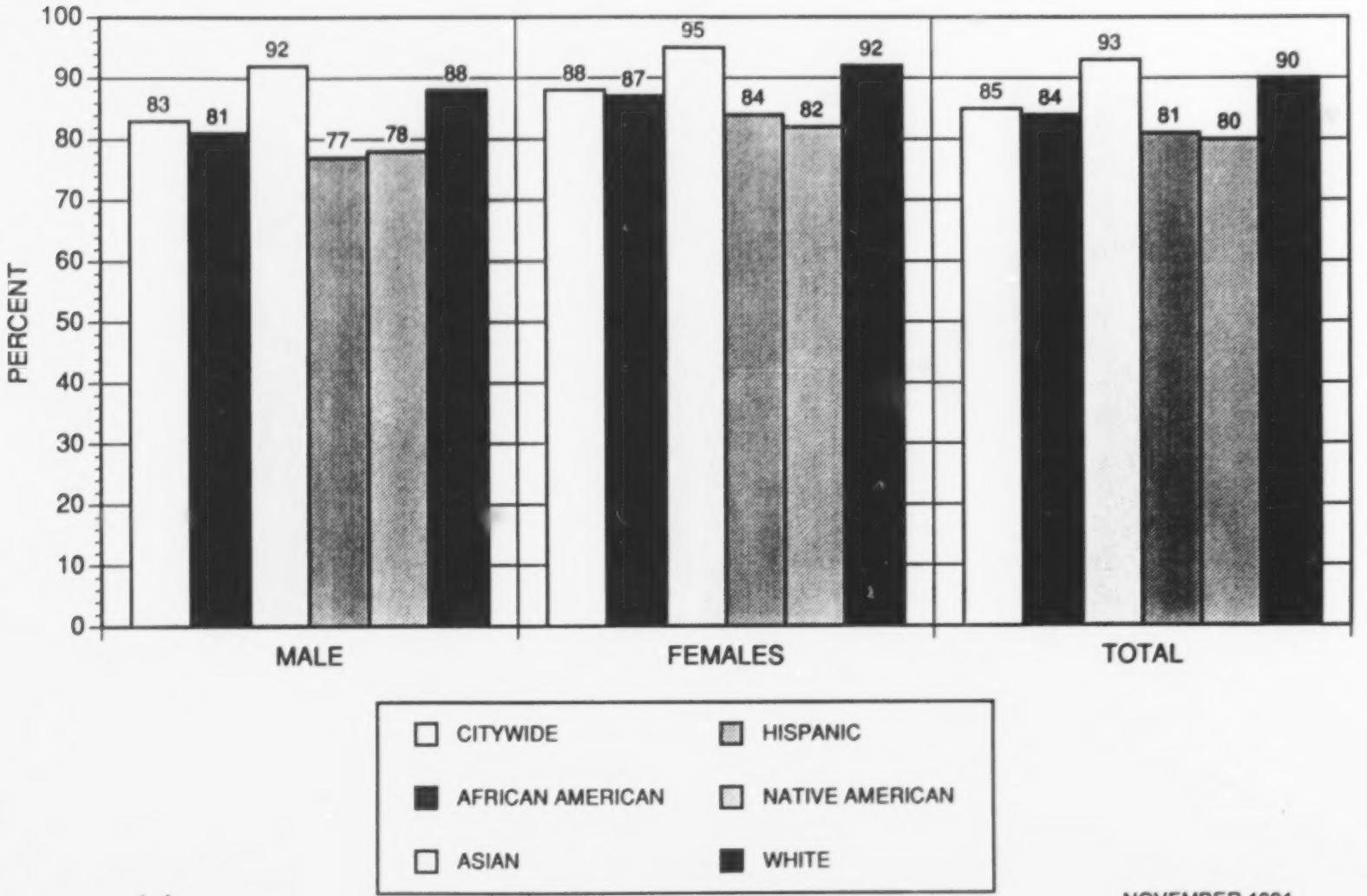

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CHART 4A: LONGITUDINAL SUMMARY - JUNE 1988 TO JUNE 1991
PERCENTAGE OF WHITE STUDENTS PROMOTED
GRADES 1-8 BY GENDER

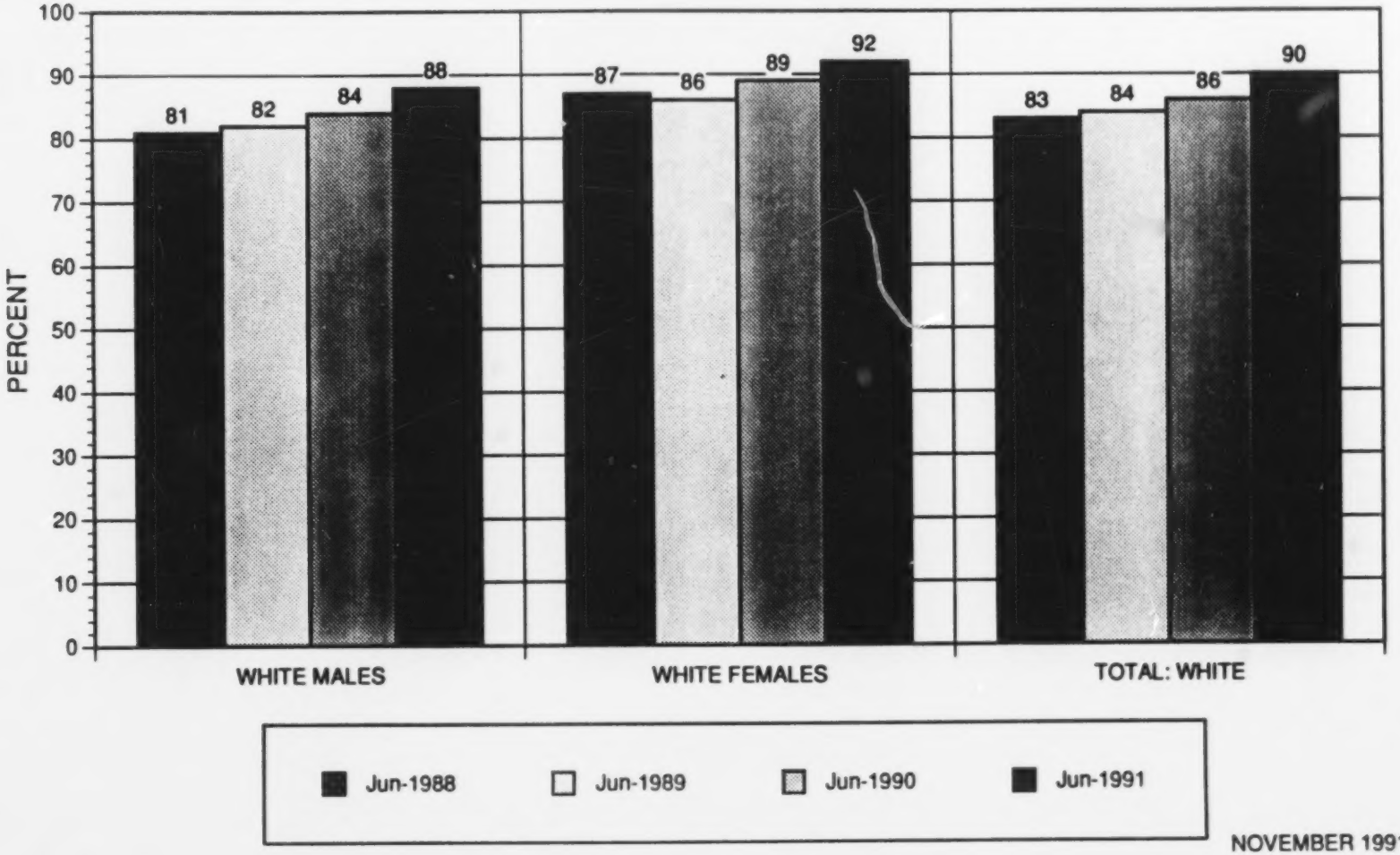

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CHART 4B: LONGITUDINAL SUMMARY - JUNE 1988 TO JUNE 1991
PERCENTAGE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS PROMOTED
GRADES 1-8 BY GENDER

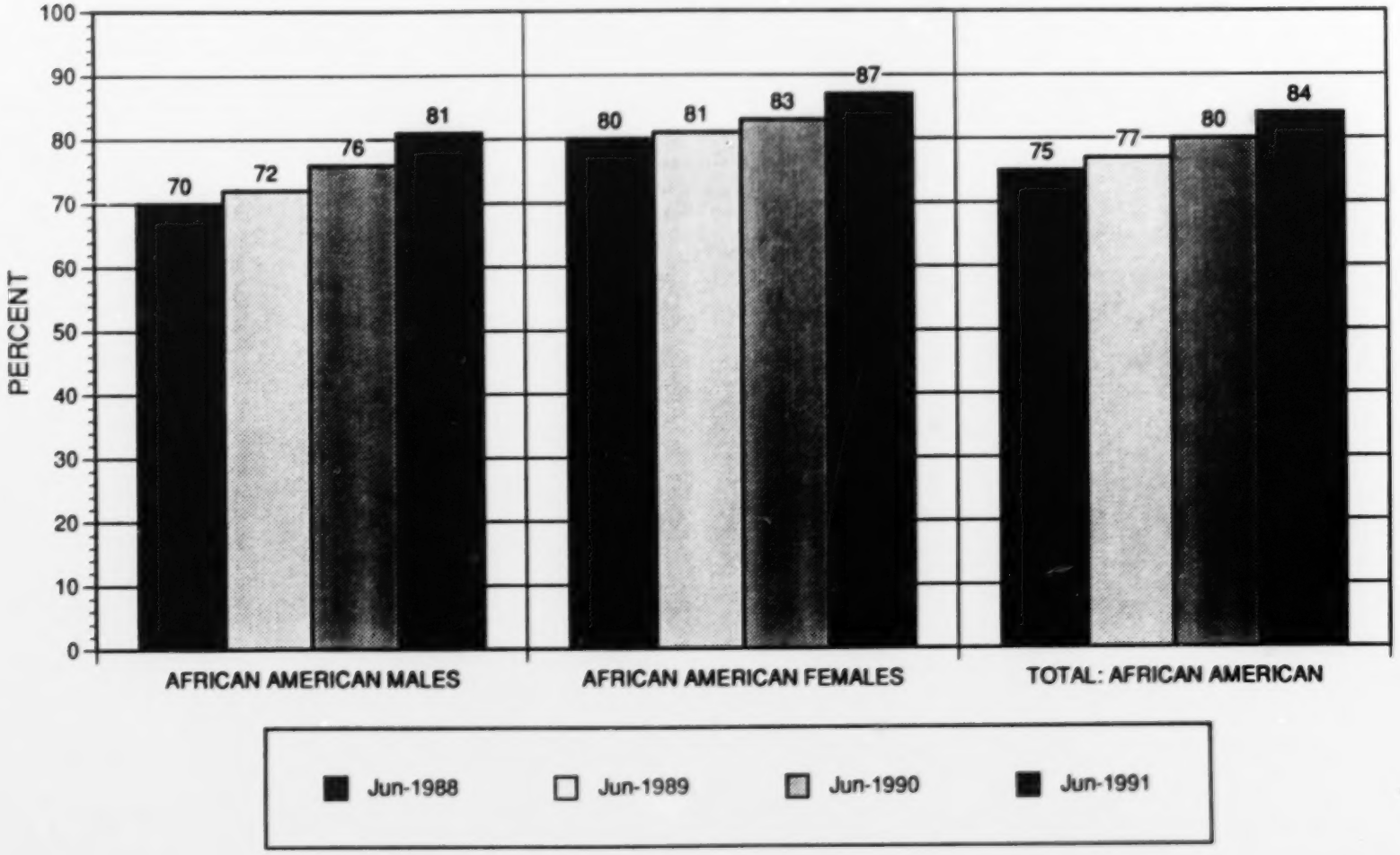

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CHART 4C: LONGITUDINAL SUMMARY - JUNE 1988 TO JUNE 1991
PERCENTAGE OF HISPANIC STUDENTS PROMOTED
GRADES 1-8 BY GENDER

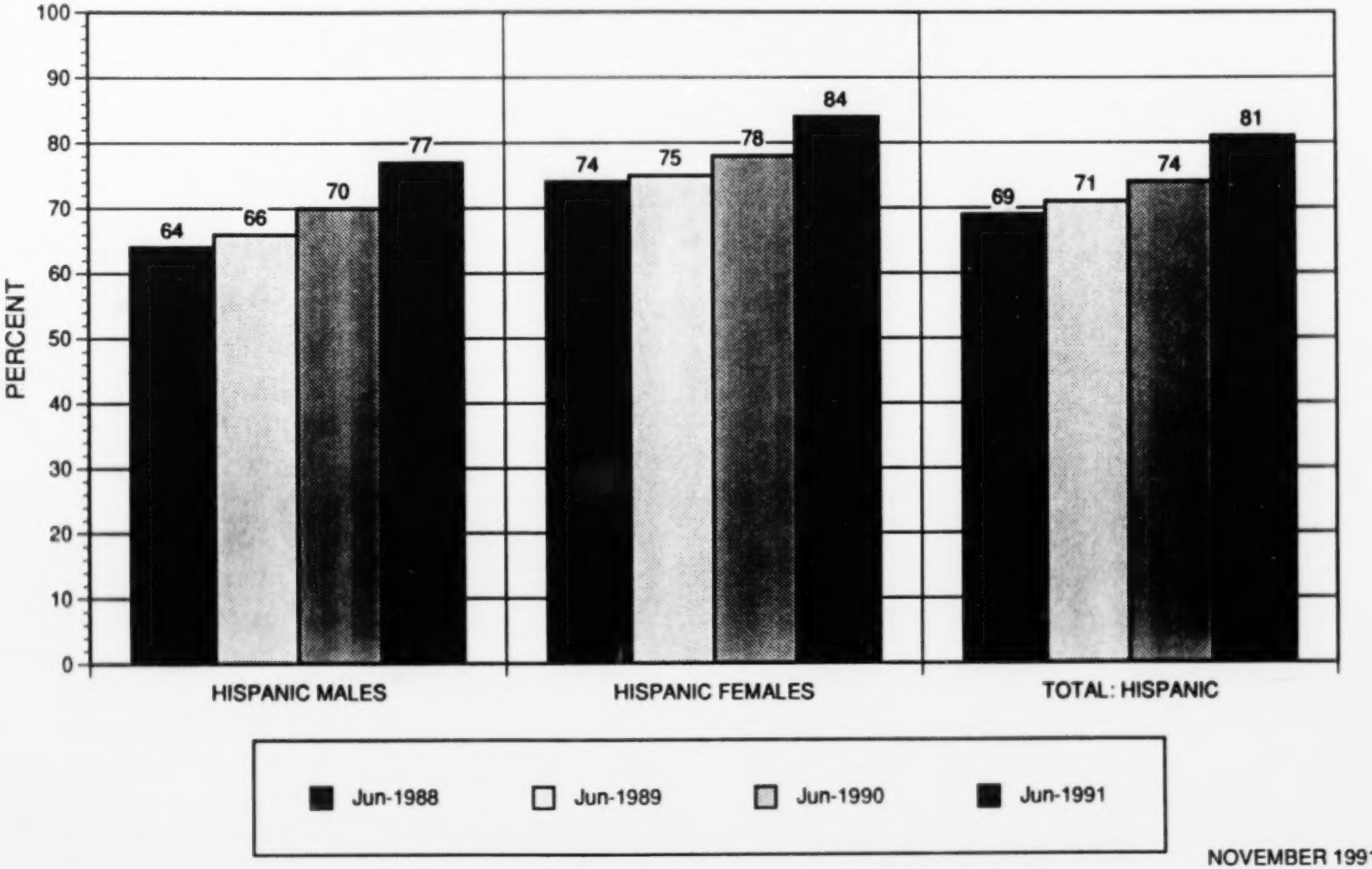

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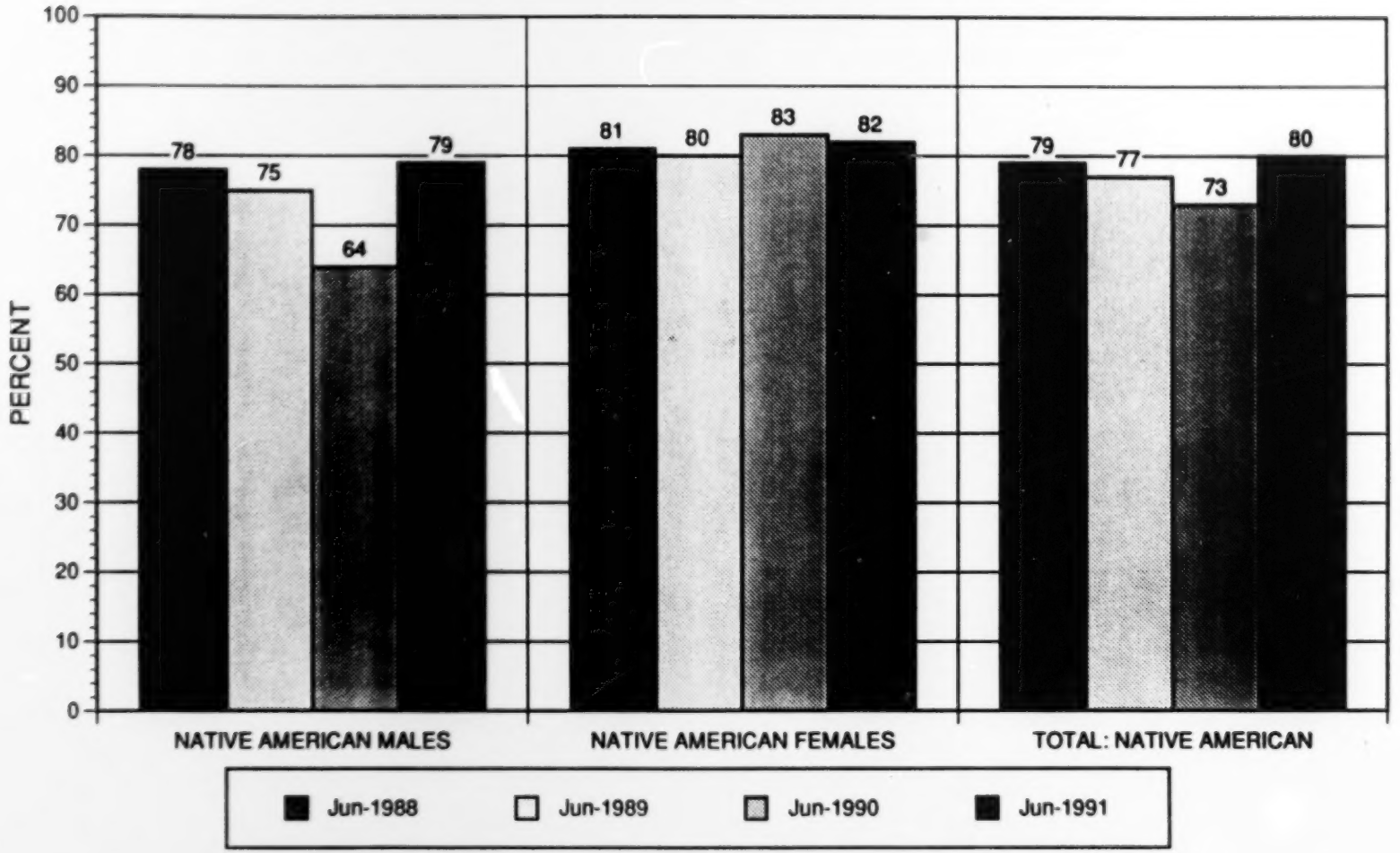
CHART 4D: LONGITUDINAL SUMMARY - JUNE 1988 TO JUNE 1991
PERCENTAGE OF NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS PROMOTED
GRADES 1-8 BY GENDER



Due to the relatively few Native American students, care must be exercised in analyzing the resulting percentages for these students.

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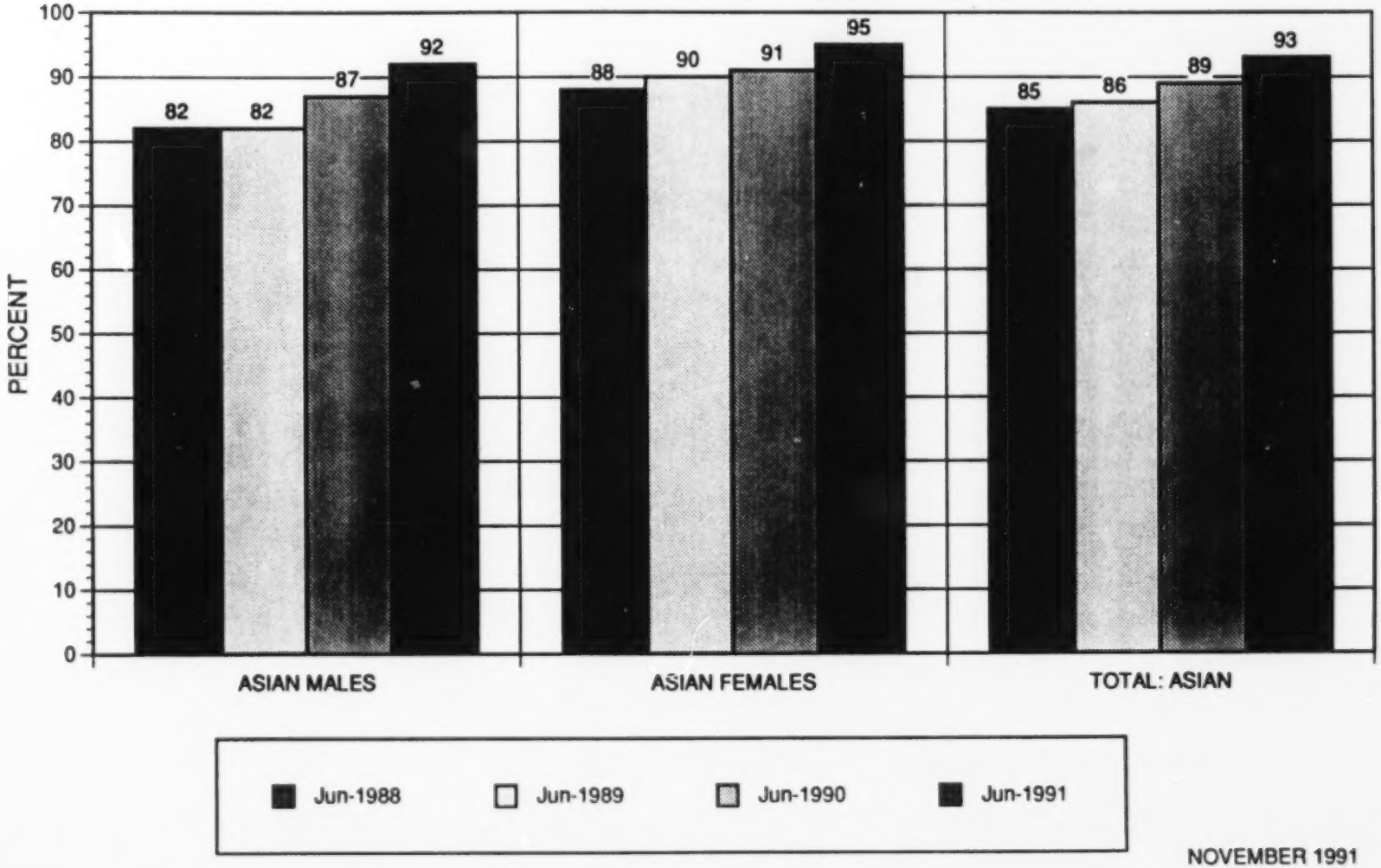
CHART 4E: LONGITUDINAL SUMMARY - JUNE 1988 TO JUNE 1991
PERCENTAGE OF ASIAN STUDENTS PROMOTED
GRADES 1-8 BY GENDER



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